

**SITUATION REPORT NO. 2**  
**INCIDENT NO. 2004-055**  
**DATE: July 19, 2004      Time 6:00 p.m.**

**TO:** Governor John Hoeven  
State Capitol  
Bismarck ND 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: **Severe Summer Storms** - Localized thunderstorms have spawned tornadoes and created conditions destroying property, killing and injuring livestock and causing power outages.
2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: No deaths or injuries have been reported.
3. DAMAGES:

**BARNES COUNTY**

The National Weather Service (NWS) confirmed that an F-4 level tornado touched down near Litchville, southwest of Valley City, on July 18<sup>th</sup>. An F-4 tornado is classified as a devastating tornado with wind speeds of 207 to 260 miles per hour (mph). The Emergency Manager reported total destruction of a rural Litchville farm which was hit by the tornado. Included in the destruction were two homes, two barns, two Quonsets, two shops, a silo, trees, a dozen grain bins and other out buildings. In addition, 15 to 24 cattle are dead or had to be destroyed and a pet dog was killed. The Minnkota and Cass County cooperatives are working to re-establish power to 22 homes as three of four Minnkota power towers servicing the area were destroyed.

**BOWMAN COUNTY**

On July 14, a severe summer storm, with golf ball-size hail, struck Bowman County. Large hail was responsible for breaking the rear window of a travelers automobile as they parked along Highway 85, six to 11 miles south of Bowman. Other travelers took refuge in a local rancher's building. Large amounts of hail were deposited on and across Highway 85 south of Bowman, deep enough that the N.D. Department of Transportation was asked to respond to remove it from the roadway. Hail depth averaged four to six inches deep and made travel impossible along this stretch of roadway, although most had melted by the time the snowplows arrived. An unconfirmed sighting of a funnel cloud was reported by the general public seven miles west of Bowman. A second unconfirmed funnel cloud was reported 11 miles south of Bowman about one-half hour later. Rainfall from the storm ranged from

one-half inch to two inches in places. Farmstead windows were broken north of Rhame by golf ball sized-hail and strong winds. Severe crop damage was reported along the path of the storm; however, totals are not yet available.

#### CASS COUNTY

The County Emergency Manager reported an F-1 tornado touched down at a farmstead northeast of Tower City on July 18. Maximum wind speeds with an F-1 tornado range from 73 to 112 mph. The tornado moved an addition to a home off its foundation and resulted in downed trees and damage to a three-stall garage, motor home and other vehicles. Residents took shelter in a basement. . A fuel tank was separated from its moorings and was leaking. Within Tower City, straight line winds damaged trees and roofs. Minnkota Power reported three toppled transmission towers about one mile northwest of the touchdown site.

#### GRAND FORKS COUNTY

The Emergency Manager reported golf ball-size hail five miles east of Emerado. Reports indicate 0.88 inch hail fell three miles east of Honeyford and Hatton, 1.75 inch fell near Emerado, and one inch near Thompson on July 18. Damages include windows knocked out in homes by hail, tree branches downed, cars dented and reports of crop damage near Northwood.

#### McINTOSH COUNTY

On July 18, golf ball-sized hail struck the Wishek area. Pea-sized hail and heavy rain impacted Ashley.

#### 4. RESOURCES:

LOCAL: In addition to the previous report, 10 Minnkota and Cass County Electric trucks, Cass County and Minnkota personnel, Barnes County Sheriff and Emergency Manager, Litchville Mayor and LaMoure County Emergency Manager responded to the July 18<sup>th</sup> storm.

STATE: In addition to previous reports, the N.D. Department of Transportation (DOT) assisted with hail removal efforts in Bowman County.

FEDERAL: No change from the previous report.

#### 5. VOLUNTEER ACTION: About 50 neighbors, friends and relatives of the Barnes County family are helping in the clean up .

Ashley firefighters conducted weather spotting during the July 18 storm.

#### 6. MAJOR ACTIONS: On July 19, the Grand Forks NWS sent a team to the Barnes County site to assess the situation. Electric cooperatives are repairing equipment in an effort to restore power. Clean up is underway on the rural Litchville property. The Barnes County road department is cleaning transportation routes of debris.

During the July 14 storm in Bottineau County, the County Emergency Management office and the amateur radio club provided storm watchers and were assisted by aircraft and radar operators at the Bowman Airport. Rhame Fire Department volunteers provided Skywarn operations. The manager and volunteers notified campers at Bowman Haley Reservoir to take precautionary measures. The local hospital and nursing home in Bowman activated their emergency storm procedures for patient protection.

On July 18, the Tower City Volunteer Fire Department sealed a leaking fuel tank at a farmstead struck by a tornado.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: No outside assistance has been requested.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No outside assistance has been requested.
9. OTHER INFORMATION: The N.D. Division of Emergency Management's Situation Reports are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is <http://www.state.nd.us/dem>.

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Douglas C. Friez, State Director